



HR0656

LRB099 13242 GRL 37149 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to recognize milestone events in  
4 Illinois organizations; and

5 WHEREAS, The Woodford County Farm Bureau, headquartered in  
6 Eureka, is a grassroots organization dedicated to the  
7 propagation of the most profitable and permanent system of  
8 agriculture possible in the county; and

9 WHEREAS, The Woodford County Farm Bureau has been in  
10 operation for 100 years; the organization conducts business in  
11 conjunction with the American Farm Bureau Association, a  
12 national organization of farmers and ranchers which includes  
13 Farm Bureaus in all 50 states and Puerto Rico; and

14 WHEREAS, In 1914, following the passage of the federal  
15 Smith-Lever Act, several men, including Howard Leonard, Simon  
16 E. Lanz, Tom Bratt, Joe D. Smith, Ben Schertz, and W.H. Smith,  
17 discussed the creation of a cooperative farmer organization in  
18 Woodford County; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1915, at least 281 Woodford County Farm Bureau  
20 membership cards were signed; a permanent organization was  
21 immediately formed and the constitution and by-laws of the new

1 organization were adopted; one year later, Woodford County  
2 joined 11 other counties to become a charter member of the  
3 Illinois Agriculture Association; in its first year of official  
4 business, the association sold seed amounting to at least  
5 \$25,495.76, one third of which was locally grown; and

6 WHEREAS, By 1921, the Woodford County Farm Bureau played an  
7 integral role in the development of marketing and legislative  
8 programs undertaken by the Illinois Agricultural Association  
9 and the American Farm Bureau Association; and

10 WHEREAS, At the annual meeting of the Woodford County Farm  
11 Bureau in December of 1934, it was reported that membership had  
12 grown by over 39% in the calendar year and that the County  
13 Service Company had a 38% increase in the volume of products  
14 handled; and

15 WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Bureau President C.M.  
16 Smith in subsequent years, the Woodford County Farm Bureau  
17 played an integral role in the eradication of tuberculosis in  
18 local cattle, the permeation of pest control programs, the  
19 provision of credit facilities for member farms, cooperative  
20 initiatives for the production of agricultural products, and  
21 the expansion of Bureau facilities in the region; and

22 WHEREAS, Over the course of the 1950s and 1960s, the

1 Woodford County Farm Bureau continued initiatives to cement a  
2 reputation for quality agricultural products and livestock,  
3 while investing in the community through expansion of the Farm  
4 Bureau Park in Eureka; and

5 WHEREAS, The Woodford County Farm Bureau has worked closely  
6 with the Illinois congressional delegation, State of Illinois  
7 officials, municipal and township governments, and the  
8 University of Illinois on matters of agricultural policy and  
9 research; and

10 WHEREAS, While the Woodford County Farm Bureau prepares for  
11 its centennial celebration, the Bureau is stronger than ever  
12 with significant commitments to farming households and  
13 agricultural education through classroom presentations, local  
14 4-H programs, scholarships for higher education, and its Young  
15 Leader program; and

16 WHEREAS, The Woodford County Farm Bureau currently boasts  
17 over 4,000 active members in the cooperative; the organization  
18 is led by President Denny Pfanz, Vice President Dick Moritz,  
19 Secretary Kent Hodel, Treasurer Craig Moritz, and Directors  
20 Troy White, Sean Arians, Dennis Gibbs, Wayne Blunier, Dale  
21 Wyss, Loren Zimmerman, Daryl Hodel, Janet Hodel, and Ralph Noe;  
22 therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2           NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
3           recognize the Woodford County Farm Bureau on the occasion of  
4           the organization's 100th anniversary and commend the Woodford  
5           County Farm Bureau family's vision, dedication, and hard work  
6           throughout the years; and be it further

7           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
8           presented to the Woodford County Farm Bureau as an expression  
9           of our esteem.